

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Classification No

PCT/GB 03/04103

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 B08B7/00 G21F9/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B08B G21F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 653 762 A (BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PLC) 17 May 1995 (1995-05-17) cited in the application column 2, line 57 -column 3, line 40 column 6, line 9-28; figure 2	1-9, 11, 12, 17-20
X	FR 2 760 403 A (LASERALP IND) 11 September 1998 (1998-09-11) page 2, line 28 -page 3, line 22; figures 1-3	1-12, 15, 17, 20
X	EP 0 642 846 A (ONET SA) 15 March 1995 (1995-03-15) column 4, line 49 -column 5, line 22 column 13, line 2-17; figures 1-3 -/--	1-12, 15, 16, 20

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*8\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/02/2004

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/04103

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 48536 A (BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PLC ;LAWRENCE JONATHAN (GB); LI LIN (GB); SP) 24 December 1997 (1997-12-24) page 5, line 1-9 page 10, line 1 -page 11, line 24 page 12, line 29 -page 13, line 8; figures 1,2 -----	1-12,14, 17,18,20
A	EP 0 724 929 A (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO) 7 August 1996 (1996-08-07) column 3, line 16-49 column 8, line 12-24 column 10, line 32 -column 11, line 19 column 13, line 35 -column 14, line 46 column 16, line 22-33; figures 1-6 -----	1-11, 14-17,20

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/GB 03/04103

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 21  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 21

No features are given in claim 21

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB 03/04103

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0653762	A	17-05-1995	DE 69409066 D1 DE 69409066 T2 EP 0653762 A1 JP 7209491 A US 5538764 A	23-04-1998 13-08-1998 17-05-1995 11-08-1995 23-07-1996
FR 2760403	A	11-09-1998	FR 2760403 A1	11-09-1998
EP 0642846	A	15-03-1995	FR 2708877 A1 DE 69410900 D1 DE 69410900 T2 EP 0642846 A1 ES 2117236 T3	17-02-1995 16-07-1998 11-02-1999 15-03-1995 01-08-1998
WO 9748536	A	24-12-1997	DE 69719989 D1 EP 0912308 A1 WO 9748536 A1	24-04-2003 06-05-1999 24-12-1997
EP 0724929	A	07-08-1996	JP 3461948 B2 JP 8206869 A CA 2168413 A1 DE 69612411 D1 DE 69612411 T2 EP 0724929 A2 US 6084202 A US 5790620 A	27-10-2003 13-08-1996 01-08-1996 17-05-2001 06-12-2001 07-08-1996 04-07-2000 04-08-1998